**1 Timothy**

Widows and Responsible Behavior

1 Timothy 5:3-16

Background

* Cursed *be* he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen. (Deut 27:19)
* Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. (Is 1:17)
* 3 Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place. 4 For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people. (Jer 22:3-4)
* 22 Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. 23 If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; (Ex 22:22-23)
* Example of Christ and Widows
  + 43 And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living. (Mark 12:43-44)
  + 11 ¶ And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. 12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. 16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people. 17 And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about. (Luke 7:11-17)
  + 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*. (John 19:26-27)
  + And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. (Acts 6:1)
  + 36 ¶ Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid *her* in an upper chamber. 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring *him* that he would not delay to come to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning *him* to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 And he gave her *his* hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. 42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord. 43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner. (Acts 9:36-43)
    - NOTE: Resurrections of people from the dead
      * Widow of Zarephath’s son (1 Kings 17:17-24)
      * Shunamite woman’s son (2 Kings 4:18-37)
      * Man raised from Elisha’s grave (2 Kings 13:20-21)
      * Widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)\
      * Jairus’ daughter (Luke 8:52-56)
      * Lazarus (John 11)
      * Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43) – whose ministry was to the widows!
      * Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12)
      * Jesus!
      * Various saints in Jerusalem when Jesus died (Matt 27:50-53)
  + Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

Honor Widows

* Widows Indeeed. Desolate. (v 3, 5)
* Believers (trusteth in God)
* Widows Who Are Godly (continue in supplication and prayers night and day)

Providing for Widows

* Begins at Home (v 4)
* If We Do Not
  + We Deny the Faith
    - For God so loved the world, that he gave….John 3:16
    - And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Rom 5:5)
    - By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:35)
    - But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. (1 Thess 4:9)
    - 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. (John 17:21-23)
  + Worse Than an Infidel

Spiritual Criteria for Widows

* Caring - brought up children
  + 3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (Titus 2:3-4)
* Hospitable – lodged strangers
* Humble – washed the saints feet
* Unselfish – relieved the afflicted
* Kind – diligently followed every good work